

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 708

FOLLOWING REPEAT SAN JOSE 01103 ACTION SECSTATE 17 MARCH.

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OAS, CS

SUBJECT: FONMIN FACIO'S PROPOSALS ON OAS GA

1. LATE FRIDAY I WAS CALLED TO A MEETING OF AMBASSADORS FROM OAS COUNTRIES. FONMIN FACIO DISTRIBUTED LETTERS (SUPPOSEDLY IDENTICAL) ADDRESSED TO ALL OAS FOREIGN MINISTERS WHICH SET FORTH HIS PROPOSALS FOR EXPEDITING THE WORK OF OAS GA'S. FACIO ASKED THAT THESE LETTERS BE FORWARDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT HIS PROPOSALS MAY BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT PRIOR TO COMING GA.

2. IN SUBSTANCE, FACIO'S LETTER TO DR. KISSINGER PROPOSES THAT, AS SUGGESTED BY FOREIGN MINISTER OF PANAMA, THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF "GENERAL DEBATE" BE ELIMINATED. THIS APPROACH IS INTENDED TO ENABLE THE GA TO GET DOWN TO
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BUSINESS SOONER, AND THUS TO ENGAGE THE PERSONAL ATTENTION

OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WHO IN THE PAST HAVE FREQUENTLY RETURNED TO THEIR COUNTRIES BEFORE THE "GENERAL DEBATE" WAS COMPLETED.

3. FACIO PROPOSES THAT AS A TEST IN THE COMING GA, EACH FOREIGN MINISTER SUBMIT A STATEMENT OF HIS POSITION ON AGENDA ITEMS TO THE SECRETARIAT EIGHT DAYS BEFORE THE GA. THESE STATEMENTS WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL DELEGATIONS AS BASIC DOCUMENTS. THERE WOULD THEN BE NO FORMAL SPEECHES DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE. INSTEAD, THE HEADS OF DELEGATIONS WOULD BEGIN INFORMAL SESSIONS ON THE MAIN TOPICS OF THE AGENDA IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE INAUGURAL SESSION AND ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY. THESE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS SHOULD NOT TAKE MORE THAN THREE DAYS.

4. IN ADDITION TO SAVING TIME AND MONEY AND ASSURING THE DIRECT PARTICIPATION OF FOREIGN MINISTERS IN THE MOST IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS, FACIO SAYS THAT HIS PROPOSAL WOULD HELP TO INSTITUTIONALIZE WITHIN THE OAS THE "SYSTEM OF INFORMAL, HONEST AND OPEN EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS AMONG THE AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS THAT WAS SUCCESSFULLY PUT INTO PRACTICE AT THE MEETINGS OF THE NEW DIALOGUE HELD IN TLATELOLCO AND IN WASHINGTON".

5. FACIO'S LETTER WILL BE POUCHED TO THE SECRETARY MARCH 18. HE REQUESTS COMMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND ALSO THAT PERMANENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES BE INSTRUCTED IN ORDER THAT THE WORK OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MAY PROCEED ACCORDINGLY.

6. COMMENT. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, FACIO INDICATED THAT HE WOULD TAKE SUCH ACTION DURING HIS CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS.
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